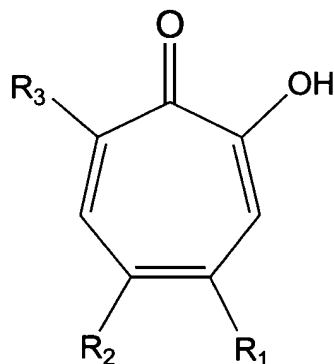


What is Claimed is:

1. A compound of Formula (I), isomers and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

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wherein R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, an alkyl group, a hydroxyalkyl group, and an alkoxyalkyl group, with the proviso that when R_2 and R_3 are each hydrogen, then R_1 is not isopropyl.

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2. The compound of claim 1 wherein the alkyl group has 1 to 6 carbon atoms, the hydroxyalkyl group has 1 to 6 carbon atoms and the alkoxy portion and the alkyl portion of the alkoxyalkyl group each have 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

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3. The compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is hydrogen or an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

4. The compound of claim 3 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, isopropyl and t-butyl.

5. The compound of claim 3 wherein R_3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, hydroxymethyl, and an alkoxyalkyl group.

6. The compound of claim 5 wherein R_2 is an alkyl group.

7. The compound of claim 5 wherein R_3 is hydroxymethyl, R_2 is hydrogen, and R_1 is methyl.

8. The compound of claim 5 wherein R_2 and R_3 are hydrogen and R_1 is methyl.

9. The compound of claim 5 wherein R_3 is an alkoxyalkyl group, R_2 is hydrogen and R_1 is an alkyl group.

10. The compound of claim 5 wherein the alkoxyalkyl group is methoxymethyl and hexloxymethyl.

11. The compound of claim 9 wherein R_3 is methoxymethyl.

12. The compound of claim 11 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of methyl and isopropyl.

13. The compound of claim 8 wherein R_3 is hexloxymethyl and R_1 is isopropyl.

14. The compound of claim 5 wherein R_2 and R_3 are each hydrogen and R_1 is methyl.

15. The compound of claim 5 wherein R_1 is isopropyl, R_2 is hydrogen, and R_3 is an alkyl group.

16. The compound of claim 15 wherein R_3 is hexyl.

17. The compound of claim 1 is selected from the group consisting of 4-methyl-7-hydroxymethyltropolone, 4,7-dimethyltropolone, 4-methyl-7-methoxymethyltropolone, 4-isopropyl-7-methyltropolone, 4-isopropyl-7-hexyltropolone, 4-t-butyltropolone, 5-t-butyltropolone, 4-methyltropolone, 4-isopropyl-7-methoxymethyltropolone, 4-isopropyl-7-hexloxymethyltropolone, and combinations thereof.

18. An oral care composition for preventing or treating diseases or conditions of the oral cavity in warm-blooded animals including humans, comprising an oral care

effective amount of at least one compound of claim 17, and a pharmaceutically acceptable oral carrier.

19. The oral care composition of claim 17 wherein the at least one compound of claim 1 is selected from the group consisting of 4-methyl-7-hydroxymethyltropolone, 4,7-dimethyltropolone, 4-methyl-7-methoxymethyltropolone, 4-isopropyl-7-methyltropolone, 4-isopropyl-7-hexyltropolone, 4-t-butyltropolone, 5-t-butyltropolone, 4-methyltropolone, 4-isopropyl-7-methoxymethyltropolone, 4-isopropyl-7-hexoxymethyltropolone, and combinations thereof.

20. The oral care composition of claim 18 wherein the oral care effective amount of the at least one compound is from about 0.001% to 10% by weight based on the total weight of the oral care composition.

21. The oral care composition of claim 20 wherein the oral care effective amount of the at least one compound is from about 0.01% to 5% by weight based on the total weight of the oral care composition.

22. The oral care composition of claim 21 wherein the oral care effective amount of the at least one compound is from about 0.01% to 2% by weight based on the total weight of the oral care composition.

23. A method for preventing or treating diseases or conditions of the oral cavity in warm-blooded animals including humans, comprising applying an oral care effective amount of the composition of claim 18 to the oral cavity.